

## **Maurice D. Hinchey Catskill Interpretive Center On-Site Event and Activity Policy**

The Maurice D. Hinchey Catskill Interpretive Center (CIC), a public-private partnership between the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and a consortium of groups led by the Catskill Center is an opportunity for New York State, the Catskill Center, the operating organizations and the communities of the Catskills to welcome visitors to the Catskill Park and the Catskill Watershed. Part of that welcome will be events and activities occurring on the site. This policy seeks to clarify the types of events and activities that will be hosted at the CIC.

**It shall be the goal of the CIC to provide the public with events and activities that are representative of natural, cultural, historic, community and agricultural resources that are available in the Catskill Park and the Catskill Watershed and will help visitors discover more about the Catskills.**

- **All events and activities shall be reviewed for compliance with operating procedures and approved by the Catskill Center. The Catskill Center will provide an application form to submit an event or an activity for consideration and approval.**
- **Events occurring during normal business hours of the CIC shall not impact the operation of the CIC or prevent the public from accessing the CIC.**
- **In general, events and activities held at the CIC shall support the CIC's goal of promoting and interpreting the natural, cultural, historic, community and agricultural resources of the region. This shall include events such as farmers markets, outdoor festivals, local festivals, art festivals, locally influenced events and lectures, and interpretive walks, which provide visitors with a way to experience the Catskills in a positive way. This is not meant to be a comprehensive list of all potential events and activities that will be allowed at the CIC.**
- **Events and activities at the CIC must: 1) support CIC operating expenses through a donation that shall be determined through the application process; 2) promote the CIC; and 3) provide opportunities for individuals to support the CIC during the event.**
- **When activities require a permit be obtained from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, obtaining the permit will be the responsibility of the applicant/event organizer.**
- **Public commercial events are allowed, however such events require a permit issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. For a commercial event to be considered for a permit, all net proceeds from the sale of items are to be used by the Catskill Center to support the operations of the CIC. Per the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, "50% of the revenue from the sale of items at the CIC meets the definition of net proceeds for the purposes of this agreement. In cases where an event includes several vendors, each individual vendor must meet this standard."**
- **Private events such as weddings, dinners, and meetings may be held at a time when the CIC would normally be closed to the public. Such events may also be held during normal business hours, so long as public access to the CIC is not limited or restricted. Registration and usage fees will be assessed based on application process.**
- **This policy will not apply to events sponsored and operated by the CIC.**